

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USUN N 00131 161733Z

43

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 RSC-01

COME-00 TRSE-00 IOE-00 OES-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

INRE-00 SSO-00 /045 W

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O R 161645Z JAN 75

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8798

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0131

ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: FAO AGR ECOSOC

SUBJ: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

1. WALDHEIM'S HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS JANUARY 9 AND 10  
CONCERNED FOLLOW-UP ON WORLD FOOD COUNCIL.  
SYG WALDHEIM MET PRIVATELY WITH FAO DG BOERMA A.M.  
JANUARY 9 AS PREVIOUSLY INDICATED. FIRST ITEM ON AGENDA  
WAS SECRETARIAT ARRANGEMENTS FOR WORLD FOOD COUNCIL.

2. WALDHEIM PROPOSED THAT WFC STAFF BE HEADED BY  
INDIVIDUAL RANK OF UNDER SECRETARY-GENERAL. IN HIS VIEW  
INCUMBENT SHOULD BE HIGH-POWERED SALESMAN, FUND RAISER  
AND NEGOTIATOR. HE INDICATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO MAKE UNEP  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MAURICE STRONG AVAILABLE FOR SENIOR  
POST.

3. BOERMA DISAGREED WITH WALDHEIM ON FUNCTION OF WFC STAFF  
DIRECTOR INDICATING HIS BELIEF THAT POSITION SHOULD BE  
LOW-PROFILE AND PERSON WITH EXCELLENT CREDENTIALS  
IN MATTERS OF UN COORDINATION, RATIONALIZATION AND INTER-  
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PAGE 02 USUN N 00131 161733Z

GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS. HE DID NOT BELIEVE THE POST

SHOULD BE USYG LEVEL, BUT WAS NOT PREPARED TO CONTEST CLASSIFICATION.

4. BOERMA FURTHER INDICATED HIS FEELING THAT FAO'S FUTURE REQUIRED EFFORT TO OBTAIN SUCCESSOR TO HIM OF HIGHER QUALIFICATIONS THAN FOUR CANDIDATES NOW IN RUNNING. HE PROPOSED THAT FAO ASYG YRIART BE GIVEN FOOD COUNCIL POST THUS FULFILLING WALDHEIM'S COMMITMENTS TO LA GROUP, PRESERVING STRONG IN HIS PRESENT POST AND LEAVING OPEN POSSIBILITY THAT EITHER WORLD FOOD PROGRAM OR FAO COULD BE TAKEN OVER BY WEO GROUP. INITIAL MEETING ADJOURNED WITH NO AGREEMENTS. IN INTERIM, BOERMA SOUGHT OUT MIN-COUN WHO REITERATED A STRONG PREFERENCE FOR JOHN HANNAH AS INITIAL STAFF DIRECTOR AND FOR STRONG TO REMAIN AS HEAD OF UNEP IN ACCORDANCE WITH HIS EARLIER COMMITMENT TO USG. BOERMA IMMEDIATELY CONFIRMED TOTAL ACCEPTABILITY OF HANNAH AND UPON ASSURANCES BY AMB. FERGUSON AND MIN-COUN, ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION TO STICK TO THEIR PREFERENCES WHILE AT THE SAME TIME INDICATING NO PERSONAL HOSTILITY TOWARD MAURICE STRONG.

5. AT NEXT MEETING INVOLVING WALDHEIM, BOERMA, MCNAMARA AND PREBISCH, IT WAS AGREED TO APPOINT HANNAH AS ACTING HEAD OF THE WFC SECRETARIAT FOR A PERIOD OF ABOUT SIX MONTHS. THE QUESTION OF A SUCCESSOR TO HANNAH WAS NOT FINALLY RESOLVED, ALTHOUGH BOERMA IS CONVINCED WALDHEIM LEANS STRONGLY TOWARD MAURICE STRONG AND IS OPPOSED TO YRIART.

6. ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT USUN HAS RESULTED IN HANNAH'S INTERIM APPOINTMENT. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHETHER STRONG HAS BEEN DISPLACED BY YRIART ALTHOUGH CANADA HAS ASKED THAT SYG NOT PROCEED WITH STRONG APPOINTMENT UNTIL CONSULTATIONS COMPLETED. IN INTERIM, STRONG HAS RETURNED TO NAIROBI BELIEVING THAT HIS POSITION THERE IS WEAKENED BY THE CLEAR INDICATION THAT SYG WISHES APPOINT A REPLACEMENT. OBVIOUSLY, THE PROBABILITY OF OBTAINING THE FAO OR WFP TOP POSTS FOR WEO NOMINEE WILL BE CONDITIONED BY THE ULTIMATE APPOINTMENTS TO HEAD THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL AND UNEP.

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PAGE 03 USUN N 00131 161733Z

7. ON JANUARY 10, SYG AND BOERMA WERE JOINED BY IBRD PRESIDENT MCNAMARA, UNCTAD REP AND KITTANI. MAIN FOCUS WAS ON CONSULTATIVE GROUP AND REVIEW OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY FAO ON WFC FOLLOW-UP. AFTER CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION, MCNAMARA PROPOSED AMB. EDWIN MARTIN AS STAFF DIRECTOR FOR CONSULTATIVE GROUP. PROPOSAL WELL RECEIVED BY OTHER PARTICIPANTS. HOWEVER, BOERMA SUCCESSFULLY CONTENTED

THAT NO FIRM ACTION BE TAKEN ON THIS APPOINTMENT AND MADE  
PUBLIC UNTIL MARTIN CONSULTED.  
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## Message Attributes

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